



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE PLEAD GUILTY TO METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three co-defendants pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Clinton County, Mo.

Regina Lynn Delacal, 31, of Oklahoma, **Linda Lorraine Salinas**, 59, of California, and **Jesus Jimenez-Gutierrez**, 29, of Minnesota, pleaded guilty in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to conspiring to distribute methamphetamine in Clinton County between July 27 and Aug. 3, 2003.

Defendants **Delacal** and **Salinas** were arrested on Aug. 2, 2003, Graves said, when the van in which they were traveling was stopped for speeding on Interstate 35 by a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper. In a subsequent search of the vehicle, law enforcement officers found 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine and three kilograms of cocaine hidden above the gas tank. **Jimenez-Gutierrez** was arrested after he arrived from Minnesota to retrieve the van, believing it had broken down in Cameron.

Salinas admitted that she drove the “load vehicle” from California to Arizona, where the drugs were loaded in the secret compartment, then drove to Oklahoma, where she met **Delacal**.

Delacal admitted that she helped drive the “load vehicle” from Oklahoma en route to Minnesota, knowing that it contained illegal drugs. **Delacal** also admitted that she had made the same trip on another occasion. On a prior trip, after the delivery of drugs in Minnesota, **Deleacal** was allowed to keep the “load vehicle” - a motor home.

Jimenez-Gutierrez admitted that he was recruited to go to Cameron to help repair the van so it could finish its trip to Minnesota, knowing that it had drugs loaded in it.

Under federal statutes, each defendant could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$2 million. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow